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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

9 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

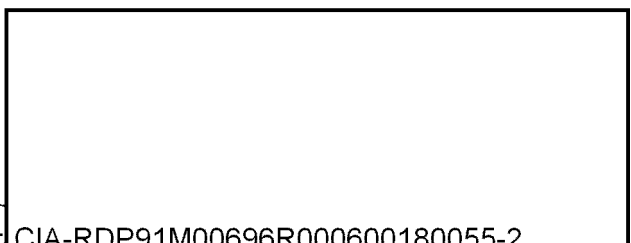
SUBJECT: Briefing of PFIAB Estimates Evaluation Committee  
on Status of Experiment in Competitive Analysis

1. On Friday, 6 August, I briefed Mr. Galvin's Committee on the present status of the "B" Teams for the experiment in competitive analysis being done in connection with this year's NIE of Soviet Strategic Programs and Forces. Mr. Richard Lehman was also present.

2. In the briefing I covered the selection of the three topics for study -- Soviet ICBM accuracy, low altitude air defense, and strategic policy and objectives -- and explained that the "B" teams for the first two topics were in operation. I discussed the personnel working on these two teams and the contractor organizations tasked to perform the work. I reported that there has been full cooperation from within the intelligence community in providing information and support and that there was every reason to feel that work was progressing satisfactorily on these two topics.

3. I then explained that greater difficulty has been encountered in setting up the "B" team for the third topic -- Soviet strategic policy and objectives. This has been due to the problem of finding a team leader of appropriate stature and reputation who could redirect his schedule to this task on such short notice. I explained that I now had such a man -- Dr. Richard Pipes -- who had just returned from Europe and is willing to accept the task with appropriate support. Dr. Pipes was one of the authorities suggested by Mr. Galvin's Committee as a team leader. I explained that Dr. Pipes had not previously held the special clearances and that security processing was underway. The Committee was also told that Dr. William Van Cleave was returning from Europe in mid-August and would be available

MORI pages 1-2



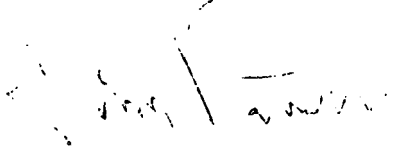
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to assist Dr. Pipes, and that other specialists who had agreed to consult on the topic included Ambassador Kohler, General John Vogt (USA, retired), Albert Wohlstetter, Paul Nitze, Charles Hertzfeld, Gardiner Tucker, and General Jasper Welch. I reported that I wanted to convey a much more guarded optimism about the work on this topic, compared to the "B" teams for the first two topics, because of the delays experienced in identifying a team leader and completing the necessary security reviews. Because that process is not yet complete I did not want to be on record that work on Soviet strategic policy and objectives was yet progressing satisfactorily.

4. Mr. William Casey, one of the Committee members, asked about the earlier selection of Ambassador Weiss as team leader for the study of strategic policy. I explained that the Department of State had felt it inappropriate for a serving Ambassador to accept the task. Mr. Casey then asked how the team was expected to function under Dr. Pipes. I said that Dr. Pipes' present plan is to call a meeting of the entire group as early as possible to discuss a work plan, and that I expected that most of the writing would be done by Dr. Pipes and Dr. Van Cleave. Mr. Galvin asked if I would be involved in the analysis and drafting. I replied that I would not, but that I would provide all necessary assistance in providing information and other support.

5. Mr. Galvin said that the Committee was pleased that the effort was being taken seriously and that it would like to be kept informed on the progress. Mr. Lehman said that at the next meeting of the Board -- in early October -- we would provide another report on the progress of the experiment.

  
John A. Paisley  
NIO Coordinator, Competitive Analysis

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